

3. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein if the data collector determines that the flow aggregation process is not operating, the method further comprises:

continuing to collect and store accounting records from the network device for future transmission to that flow aggregation process.

4. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein if the data collector does not receive an acknowledgement signal in response to transmitting the records to the flow aggregation process, the method further comprises:

determining an error relating to the first flow aggregation process; and
causing aggregate reports from the second flow aggregation process to be sent to the accounting module in place of the aggregate reports from the first flow aggregation process.

5. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data collector produces network accounting records (NARs) from collected data.

Attached is a marked-up version of the amendments made to the application by the current response. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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